

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an open wound having a wound surface located inwardly of healthy skin surrounding the open wound, the method comprising:

providing a relatively thin and flexible member having a wound contacting surface with holes in the wound contacting surface, a port to be attached to a vacuum source, a plurality of channels extending between the holes and the port, and spacers coupled to the wound contacting surface, wherein the spacers and the wound contacting surface are made from the same material.

positioning the member so that at least a portion of the member is inside the open wound having at least some of the spacers resting against the wound surface to space the wound contacting surface of the member apart from the wound surface, and

providing a cover over the member to define a space above the wound surface in which a vacuum is formed when the port is connected to a vacuum source.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the flexible member is transparent for observing the wound surface.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, further comprising irrigating the wound surface by expelling irrigation fluid through the holes.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein irrigating the wound surface by expelling irrigation fluid through the holes includes irrigating the wound surface by introducing irrigation fluid through a plurality of irrigation ports in communication with the holes of the member.

36-37. (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) A method of treating an open wound having a wound surface located below healthy skin surrounding the open wound, the method comprising:

positioning a relatively thin and flexible member so that at least a portion of the member is inside the open wound, the member having a wound facing surface with holes in the wound facing surface located inside the open wound below the healthy skin surrounding the open wound, the member also having a single port and passageways connecting each of the holes to the port,

spacing the wound facing surface of the member apart from the wound surface to define a space between the wound surface and the wound facing surface of the member,

covering the wound and the member with a film,

sealing the film to healthy skin surrounding the wound to create a sealed environment between the film and the wound surface,

coupling the port of the member to a vacuum source,

creating a negative pressure in the space between the wound and the surface of the member,

coupling the port of the member to an irrigation source, and

irrigating the wound surface by sending an irrigation liquid from the irrigation source through the member to the wound surface.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a wound having a wound surface, the method comprising:

providing a relatively thin and flexible member having a wound contacting surface with holes in the wound contacting surface, a port to be attached to a vacuum source, a plurality of channels extending between the holes and the port, and spacers coupled to the wound contacting surface, wherein the spacers and the wound contacting surface are made from the same material,

positioning the member so that at least some of the spacers rest against the wound surface to space the wound contacting surface of the member apart from the wound surface, and

providing a cover over the member to define a space above the wound surface in which a vacuum is formed when the port is connected to a vacuum source.